IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A stream server apparatus connected to a first network and a second network, said stream server apparatus comprising:

wherein said first network connects said stream server apparatus and a first client apparatus and a firewall apparatus;

wherein said second network connects said stream server apparatus and a second client apparatus and said firewall apparatus,

wherein said stream server apparatus communicates via a first path that includes said first network and said first client apparatus, via a second path that includes said first network and said firewall apparatus and said second client apparatus, and via a third path that includes said second network and said second client apparatus; a first interface which transmits and receives control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path;

a second interface which transmits and receives data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path;

a stream transport management module which specifies said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client apparatus and the second client apparatus, and specifies

2

distribution protocol for each client apparatus based on a network to which said client apparatus is connected,

wherein, if ~~the network to which~~the destination of transmission is said first client apparatus which is connected ~~is~~to said first network, then bandwidth control is executed and said first client apparatus is notified of a port number identifying a port through which communications are to be conducted,

wherein if the destination of transmission is ~~network to which~~ said second client apparatus which is connected ~~is~~to said second network, then bandwidth control is not executed and said second client apparatus is notified of a dummy port number identifying a dummy port through which communications are not conducted;

a bandwidth management processing module which dynamically assigns a port and identifies the port by a port number and executes the bandwidth control based on a bandwidth control protocol for controlling a bandwidth of the stream data distribution; and

a process module which executes a communication process based on communication protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or the second interface.

2.   (previously presented)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said process module executes a stream data distribution process based on a same protocol for both said first client apparatus and said second client apparatus.

3

3.   (original)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said communication protocol uses a user datagram protocol.

4.   (previously presented)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a control request reception module which notifies an ID of the interface specified by said stream transport management module to the client apparatuses.

5.   (previously presented)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said first interface, if the communication protocol includes a reception process of a packet for said stream server apparatus from said second client apparatus via said second path.

6.   (previously presented)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said second interface, if the communication protocol does not include a reception process of a packet for said stream server apparatus from said second client apparatus via said second path.

7.   (previously presented)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said second interface, if the communication protocol is said stream

data distributing protocol from said stream server apparatus for said second client apparatus via said third path.

8.   (previously presented)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies said first interface, if the client apparatus belongs to the same network as said first network to which said stream server apparatus belongs.

9.   (previously presented)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control request reception module notifies said second client apparatus of the ID of the specified interface, said ID being not a local ID distinguishable by said first network but a global ID capable of being translated into the local ID by a network relay apparatus en route to said second client apparatus via said second path and said third path.

Claim 10 (canceled).

11.   (currently amended) A network attached storage system for managing a file system and distributing stream data stored in a storage unit to client apparatuses via networks, said network attached storage system, being connected to a first network and a second network, comprising:

a stream server apparatus for distributing the stream data,

wherein said first network connects said stream server apparatus and a first client apparatus and a firewall apparatus;

wherein said second network connects said stream server apparatus and a second client apparatus and said firewall apparatus,

wherein said stream server apparatus communicates via a first path that includes said first network and said first client apparatus, via a second path that includes said first network and said firewall apparatus and said second client apparatus, and via a third path that includes said second network and said second client apparatus;

a first interface, coupled to said stream server apparatus, for transmitting and receiving control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path; and

a second interface, coupled to said stream server apparatus, for transmitting and receiving data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path,

wherein said stream server apparatus comprises:

a stream transport management module which specifies said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client apparatus and the second client apparatus, specifies distribution protocol for each client apparatus based on a network to which said client apparatus is connected,

wherein, if the destination of transmission is ~~network to which~~ said first client apparatus which is connected ~~is~~ to said first network, then bandwidth control is executed and said first client apparatus is notified of a port number identifying a port through which communications are to be conducted,

wherein if the destination of transmission is ~~network to which~~ said second client apparatus which is connected ~~is~~ to said second network, then bandwidth control is not executed and said second client apparatus is notified of a dummy port number identifying a dummy port through which communications are not conducted,

a bandwidth management processing module which dynamically assigns a port and identifies the port by a port number and executes the bandwidth control based on a bandwidth control protocol for controlling a bandwidth of the stream data distribution, and

a process module which executes a communication process based on communication protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or said second interface.

12.   (currently amended) An apparatus including a storage medium with a program contained therein, the program executable by a stream server apparatus connected to a first network and a second network, wherein said first network connects said stream server apparatus and a first client apparatus and a firewall apparatus, wherein said second network connects said stream server apparatus and a second client apparatus and said firewall apparatus, wherein said stream server apparatus communicates via a first path that includes said first network and said first client apparatus, via a second path that includes said first network and said firewall apparatus and said second client apparatus, and via a third path that includes said second network and said second client apparatus, wherein said stream server apparatus comprises a first interface which transmits and receives ~~receiving~~

control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path, and a second interface which transmits and receives data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path, said second interface being connected to a wide area network, said program, when executed, causing the stream server apparatus to perform:

a stream transport management step of identifying said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client apparatus and the second client apparatus and specifying a distribution protocol for each client apparatus based on a network to which said client apparatus is connected,

wherein, if the destination of transmission is network to which said first client apparatus which is connected is to said first network, then bandwidth control is executed and said first client apparatus is notified of a port number identifying a port through which communications are to be conducted,

wherein if the destination of transmission is network to which said second client apparatus which is connected is to said second network, then bandwidth control is not executed and said second client apparatus is notified of a dummy port number identifying a dummy port through which communications are not conducted,

a bandwidth management processing step of dynamically assigning a port and identifying the port by a port number, and executing the bandwidth control based on a bandwidth control protocol for controlling a bandwidth of the stream data distribution,; and

8

a step of executing a communication process based on the communication protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or said second interface.

13. (currently amended) A stream server apparatus connected to a first network and a second network, <u>said stream server apparatus</u> comprising:

wherein said first network connects said stream server apparatus and a first client apparatus and a firewall apparatus;

wherein said second network connects said stream server apparatus and a second client apparatus and said firewall apparatus,

wherein said stream server apparatus communicates via a first path that includes said first network and said first client apparatus, via a second path that includes said first network and said firewall apparatus and said second client apparatus, and via a third path that includes said second network and said second client apparatus;

a first interface which transmits and receives control request packets and data packets to and from said first client apparatus via the first path and being capable of transmitting and receiving control request packets to and from said second client apparatus via said second path;

a second interface which transmits and receives data packets to and from the second client apparatus via the third path;

a stream transport management module which specifies said first interface or said second interface in accordance with a network attribute of the first client apparatus and the second client apparatus, and specifies

distribution protocol for each client apparatus based on a network to which said client apparatus is connected,

wherein, if the <u>destination of transmission is</u> ~~network to which~~ said <u>first</u> client apparatus <u>which</u> is connected ~~is~~ <u>to</u> said first network, <u>then</u> bandwidth control is executed and said <u>first</u> client apparatus is notified of a port number identifying a port through which communications are to be conducted,

wherein if the <u>destination of transmission is</u> ~~network to which~~ said <u>second</u> client apparatus <u>which</u> is connected ~~is~~ <u>to</u> said second network, <u>then</u> bandwidth control is not executed and said <u>second</u> client apparatus is notified of a dummy port number identifying a dummy port through which communications are not conducted;

a bandwidth management processing module which dynamically assigns a port and identifies the port by a port number and executes the bandwidth control based on a bandwidth control protocol for controlling a bandwidth of the stream data distribution; and

a process module which executes a communication process based on communication protocols related to said first and second client apparatuses via said first interface or said second interface

wherein said process module executes a stream data distribution process based on a user datagram protocol (UDP) as the same communication protocol both for the first and second client apparatuses.

14.   (previously presented)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stream transport management module specifies the first or second interface in accordance with a network address of

10

the first or second network received from the first or second client apparatus via the first or the second path.

Claim 15 (canceled).

16.   (previously presented)   The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said stream transport management step comprises:

a step of specifying the first or second interface in accordance with a network address of the first or second network received from the first or second client apparatus via the first or second path.

17.   (previously presented)   The stream server apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said stream transport management module specifies the first or second interface in accordance with a network address of the first or second network received from the first or second client apparatus via the first or second path.